From: Khouri Giordano
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 3:31pm
Subject: Settlement

I am a programmer with 15 years professional application writing experience.

About ten years ago, I came to the decision that Microsoft Windows 3.0 was a way to get the graphical interface of the Apple Macintosh on my cheaper Intel based hardware. I went to the Microsoft sponsored developer conferences and came home thinking of how I was going to use the great new stuff coming out of Redmond.

Since that time, I've seen Microsoft move into more areas and push out other software vendors, most notably Netscape. Having to write and support software that runs on Windows, I've seen that platform become more complex and more prone to problems. Instead of being able to discover the real cause of a few problems, I've had to work around them. If I were able to fix a problem in Windows and there was a place to submit a change, I would have.

There came a point where I uninstalled Netscape and became a dedicated Internet Explorer user because it had more features and was more stable.

These days, I refuse to buy anything with Microsoft connections. I've switched from Internet Explorer to Mozilla which is the open source project on which the current Netscape is based.

I've come to loathe the company, their practices and their top decision making executives. I and the other Windows programmers where I work all laugh along with the Macintosh programmers at the Microsoft jokes. No one defends them any more. What intelligent person would defend a company that stymies any effort of hard working and innovative people.

I've seen DR-DOS (MS-DOS compatible), GEM (Windows alternative) and even OS/2 (Windows alternative from *IBM* of all companies) come and go. Other efforts to provide compatible software are rendered completely incompatible with every new release from Microsoft. That applies to Windows and their other applications.

I realize now that Microsoft was able to outlast the Clinton administration and now the winds have changed. Microsoft stopped putting up a fight because they knew that the consequences of losing have disintegrated.

My opinion is aligned with that of a wide range of professionals in my

field. The current settlement proposal does nothing to inhibit
Microsoft. It leaves them free to infiltrate other facets of peoples
lives and there is no evidence to make us believe that will not use
their hefty presence to squeeze out other players and buy out or crush
anyone in their way.

More of the code I've been writing is now for both Windows and
Macintosh versions of our products. Both at work and at home, I've
come to favor FreeBSD (UNIX operating system) for my Intel hardware.

Whenever given the choice to help Microsoft or help someone else, I
have to go with the company that plays fair in the marketplace and
provides the best products for the best price. That always ends up
being NOT Microsoft.
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